

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06127 191831Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 DHA-02 PRS-01 /035 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1834
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, SHUM, PINT, PGOV (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), AR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

1. ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ARRIVED
IN BUENOS AIRES 1500 AUGUST 13 AND DEPARTED
FOR ASUNCION EARLY MORNING AUGUST 16. WHILE
HERE HE WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT VIDELA AND
MADE CALLS ON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MONTES
AND MINISTER OF ECONOMY MARTINEZ DE HOZ. THESE
CONVERSATIONS ARE REPORTED SEPTELS. MR. TODMAN
WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS GEORGE LISTER, DEPUTY
DIRECTOR FOR ARA/ECP JOSEPH O'MAHONY, AND
RICHARD FEINBERG OF THE POLICY PLANNING STAFF.

2. MR. TODMAN ALSO CALLED ON DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER ALLARA AND FOLLOWED THIS WITH A
WORKING SESSION AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ATTENDED BY MR. TODMAN'S PARTY PLUS MINISTRY AND
EMBASSY OFFICERS. THE DEPUTY MINISTER WAS HOST AT
A LUNCHEON AUGUST 15 GIVEN IN MR. TODMAN'S HONOR,
AND IN THE EVENING ATTENDED A DINNER GIVEN BY
MR. TODMAN. SEPTEL COVERS THIS PART OF VISIT.
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 06127 191831Z

3. SEPTEL ALSO COVERS THE TODMAN VISIT AUGUST 14 WITH
ARGENTINE POLITICAL AND LABOR LEADERS, AND ANOTHER
CABLE WILL COVER ASPECTS OF THE TODMAN VISIT ESPECIALLY
DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS: A CALL AT THE ARGENTINE
SUPREME COURT, PLUS MEETINGS WITH CHARLES R. EISENHOWER
(US REPRESENTATIVE IN ARGENTINA OF THE JEHOVAH'S

WITNESSES), RABBI MARSHALL MEYER AND MR. DAVID GELLER.
MR. LISTER MET ALSO WITH THREE LEADING ARGENTINE
HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS PLUS MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE.

4. THE TODMAN VISIT WAS TREATED AS A MAJOR PRESS EVENT
(COVERED SEPTEL). HE SAW THE PRESS TWICE: ONCE AT A
"BACKGROUND" CONFERENCE FOR AMERICAN JOURNALISTS
RESIDENT IN BUENOS AIRES (EVENING AUGUST 14) AND AT
A GENERAL PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1900 AUGUST 15.

5. IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS OUTLINED ABOVE THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY WAS GIVEN DINNER BY THE BOARD
OF GOVERNORS OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN
ARGENTINA, SPOKE TO AN AUDIENCE OF AMERICAN AND
ARGENTINE EMPLOYEES OF THE EMBASSY, AND ON HIS ARRIVAL
SATURDAY AFTERNOON 8/13 MET FOR AN INITIAL BRIEFING
SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY COUNTRY TEAM.
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